



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA


Department of  
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services  
P. O. Box 1797  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

Telephone (804) 786-3921  
Voice/TDD (804) 371-8977  
[www.dmhmrzas.state.va.us](http://www.dmhmrzas.state.va.us)

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CSB Executive Directors (*without enclosures*)  
CSB Substance Abuse Services Program Managers (*with enclosures*)

**FROM:** Kenneth Batten, Director  
Office of Substance Abuse Services 

**RE:** NATIONAL ALCOHOL & DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH 2006

**DATE:** July 14, 2006

It is time again to support **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month**, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of celebration. *Recovery Month* demonstrates the societal benefits of substance abuse treatment and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible. This year's theme, "**Join the Voices for Recovery: Build a Stronger, Healthier Community**," is intended to highlight the positive impact of treatment for and recovery from substance use disorders. The month is set aside to help communities nationwide:

- Recognize the strides made in treatment;
- Educate the public that substance use disorders are a treatable public health problem that affects us all; and
- Encourage community support for those in need of treatment and people in recovery.

Virginia has been selected as one of ten states that will receive assistance in planning *Recovery Month 2006* activities. Virginia's forty community services boards (CSBs) have a strong history of meaningful participation in *Recovery Month*. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has contracted with Synergy Enterprises, Inc. to assist us in planning, coordinating and publicizing events during September that will take place in Richmond but will include a number of statewide organizations and interests.

We are responsible for providing SAMHSA with a summary of the state's plans for *Recovery Month 2006*. Please submit a brief description of the activities that you plan to implement on the electronic Recovery Month Planning Form, which can be found on our office website (<http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/OSAS-default.htm>). Please download the form in Word, complete it, and email it to Margaret Anne Lane at [margaret.lane@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov](mailto:margaret.lane@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov) **by August 2, 2006**.

SAMHSA promotes efforts to educate health professionals (physicians, nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers, pharmacists, etc.) to identify SUDs and intervene early, especially in the early stages when the potential for success is high and medical and social costs are relatively low. Health professionals encounter people with SUDs in their clinical settings every day, but they may feel unprepared to address SUDs in their patient populations, or may lack confidence in the effectiveness of treatment.

To help you make a difference, SAMHSA has prepared the enclosed *Recovery Month* kit of media outreach and targeted outreach materials. We encourage you to use these tools and messages to educate others in your communities, especially health professionals, about the success of substance abuse treatment and the role that treatment plays in reclaiming lives ravaged by alcoholism and drug addiction.

*Recovery Month* kits are also being sent to **Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)** affiliates. If you are not already doing so, we would encourage you to work with your nearest affiliate, or work with **SAARA of Virginia, Inc.**, to help establish an additional SAARA affiliate in your area. SAARA's mission is to maximize the power of people to advocate for treatment and recovery in order to prevent the harmful effects of substance use disorders (SUDs) upon families, businesses, and the community. By putting a face on recovery and educating people about the nature of addiction and effectiveness of treatment, SAARA members provide evidence that there are many roads to recovery, and there are many solutions to the problems associated with SUDs.

We encourage you to participate fully in *Recovery Month 2006*. If you have questions about *Recovery Month 2006* in Virginia, please contact **Margaret Anne Lane** at [margaret.lane@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov](mailto:margaret.lane@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov) or at 804/225-4649. Once again, thank you for your ongoing efforts to help people with SUDs heal themselves and the communities in which they live.

/ltb

pc: James S. Reinhard, MD  
Frank Tetrick  
Mark Blackwell